

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
BRUNSWICK DIVISION

TREMAR HARRIS,	)	
	)	Civil Action
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	No. 2:24-CV-9
vs.	)	
	)	
OFFICER WILLIAM RENTZ,	)	
individually, OFFICER JOHN	)	
DOE 1-3, individually,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

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DEPOSITION OF  
TREMAR HARRIS

Taken June 28, 2024, at 10:52 a.m.

Appling ITF  
252 West Park Drive  
Baxley, Georgia 31513

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**On behalf of the Plaintiff:**

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**On behalf of Defendant Rentz:**

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**ALSO PRESENT:**

**HUGH J. McCULLOUGH**

**WILLIAM RENTZ**

1 I just couldn't prove my innocence, though.

2 Q. Did you -- did you go to trial on that  
3 case?

4 A. No, sir.

5 Q. Pled guilty?

6 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

7 Q. Okay. For all these arrests, besides the  
8 March 2023, were you taken to the Appling County  
9 Jail?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. But the last one they shipped me to Jeff  
13 Davis.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. This time here.

16 Q. But for the 17 others you went to Appling  
17 County?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. So that's at least 17 times that you were  
20 in the Appling County Jail for about a 20-year  
21 period. Is that about right?

22 A. Huh?

23 Q. Over a 20-year period --

24 A. Oh.

25 Q. -- you were in Appling County Jail

1 approximately 17 times?

2 A. I guess so; yes, sir.

3 Q. For those stints that you had in the  
4 Appling County Jail, could you tell me how long on  
5 average you were in the jail for?

6 A. I can't remember, really, to tell you the  
7 truth.

8 Q. Would it be more than three days?

9 A. Oh, yes, sir. Yeah.

10 Q. More than a month?

11 A. Maybe a couple of weeks. It's going on  
12 what kind of charge I had.

13 Q. So, on average, maybe a couple of weeks?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Each time you were arrested?

16 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

17 Q. Besides the grievance that you filed  
18 related to this lawsuit, have you filed any other  
19 grievances during your stints in the Appling County  
20 Jail?

21 A. No.

22 Q. That's the only one?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. During these stints when you were in the  
25 Appling County Jail, did you get to know Mr. Rentz?

1           A.       I knew of him but I didn't know him like  
2       that.

3           Q.       Okay. How would you interact with him?

4           A.       We didn't really.

5           Q.       You didn't interact at all?

6           A.       Not really. Speak, and keep going.

7           Q.       Okay. When -- well, let's just take  
8       January 2022, when you were in Appling County Jail  
9       then.

10          A.       Um-hum (affirmative).

11          Q.       Did you know Mr. Rentz better than the  
12       other jailers that were there at the time?

13          A.       Not really.

14          Q.       No?

15          A.       No.

16          Q.       Before January 29th, 2022, did you have  
17       any encounters with Mr. Rentz where you felt like he  
18       meant to do you harm?

19          A.       Do what now?

20          Q.       Before January 29th, 2022, did you have  
21       any encounters with Mr. Rentz --

22          A.       No.

23          Q.       -- where you felt like he meant to harm  
24       you?

25          A.       No, sir.

1 Q. Before January 29th, 2022, did you have  
2 any encounters with Mr. Rentz where you felt like he  
3 did not like you?

4 A. No, sir.

5 Q. All right. Let's talk about the events  
6 that gave rise to your lawsuit, all right? You were  
7 arrested on January 27th, 2022, for the possession of  
8 drug-related objects; right?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. I'm going to give you what we will mark as  
11 Exhibit 2.

12 (Exhibit 2 was marked for identification.)

13 Q. (By Mr. Tuten) These are documents that  
14 we produced to your attorneys in discovery. It is a  
15 copy of the incident report detailing your arrest on  
16 January 27th, 2022.

17 A. (Reviewing document.)

18 Q. Have you ever seen this before?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. Okay. I want you to look at the third  
21 page. This is a narrative of your arrest on January  
22 27th of 2022 prepared by Investigator Brandon Carver,  
23 who was with the Appling County Sheriff's Office at  
24 that time.

25 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

1 Q. And he says: On January 27th, 2022,  
2 Investigator Carver responded to 209 V.P. Lynch  
3 Road in reference to a male subject by the name of  
4 Tremar Harris causing problems at this residence and  
5 threatening to kill everybody. Is that right?

6 A. No.

7 Q. 209 V.P. Lynch Road was where your  
8 girlfriend was living; right?

9 A. Yeah. Yes, sir.

10 Q. What were you doing on Lynch Road that  
11 day?

12 A. I used to just go out there and stay with  
13 her sometimes.

14 Q. Okay. And that's what you were doing that  
15 day, you were staying with her?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Or you had stayed with her the night  
18 before?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. How long had y'all been dating by this  
21 point?

22 A. About three years.

23 Q. Okay. So do you remember what time of day  
24 it was that the Sheriff's Office got called out  
25 there?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Okay. Do you remember which other  
3 deputies besides Carver were there when you were  
4 arrested on the 27th?

5 A. I can't remember.

6 Q. After they arrested you, did you -- after  
7 they arrested you, did they take you straight to the  
8 Appling County Jail?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. And you got booked into the jail that  
11 morning; right?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Okay. During the booking process at the  
14 jail you were put into a holding cell; right?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. And you threw the bed in that holding cell  
17 against the wall, didn't you?

18 A. Threw a bed? No.

19 Q. A bed or a mattress?

20 A. No.

21 Q. No?

22 A. No.

23 Q. You're aware that there are surveillance  
24 cameras in the Appling County Jail; right?

25 A. Yeah.



1 Q. And you are aware that those cameras  
2 record what happened in the jail at any given time;  
3 right?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. All right. Bear with me a little bit.  
6 I'm going to show you some video footage  
7 that we have.

8 MR. TUTEN: Carey, this is Rentz 204.  
9 Ms. Carey. And the footage is going to start at  
10 9:25 a.m. on January 27th, 2022. And just for  
11 the record, I'm going to mark that as Exhibit 3.

12 And I'll provide you with a copy of these.  
13 (Exhibit 3 was marked for identification.)

14 MR. TUTEN: I told you to bear with me.  
15 It's a cumbersome process to get this video  
16 loaded.

17 MS. CAREY: If you need a break at any  
18 time, just let us know.

19 THE WITNESS: Okay.

20 Q. (By Mr. Tuten) All right, Mr. Rentz  
21 (sic), this is not the cleanest -- the best sizing of  
22 it. Let me get over here so I can see.

23 I'm going to start playing this video for  
24 you. I want you to watch this upper right thumbnail,  
25 okay? Well, if it will actually play. Give me one

1 second.

2 Let's go off the record for one second.

3 (Off the record.)

4 MR. TUTEN: Let's go back on the record.

5 Q. (By Mr. Tuten) This is Rentz 204, which  
6 we've marked as Exhibit 3. We're going to start  
7 playing at 9:25:31 a.m. on January 27th, 2022.

8 And, Mr. Harris, if you'll look at the top  
9 right thumbnail.

10 A. (Playing video.)

11 Q. I stopped playing at 9:25:36 a.m.

12 Mr. Harris, would you agree that Exhibit 3  
13 is a fair and accurate depiction of your actions in  
14 the Appling County Jail on January 27th, 2022?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Do you have any reason to believe that  
17 this video is inaccurate?

18 A. No, sir.

19 Q. So let me ask you again. Did you throw a  
20 bed in the holding cell against the wall?

21 A. Yes, sir. A mat. I didn't throw no bed.  
22 A mat.

23 Q. A mat?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Why did you throw the mat?

1           A.     I can't remember. That been so long ago.  
2     Don't seem like that got nothing to do with what  
3     we're talking about, though.

4           Q.     Once you were booked in, did they put you  
5     in the seg cell right away?

6           A.     I can't remember. I think so, yeah.

7           Q.     Do you remember being in the seg cell that  
8     first day that you were in jail?

9           A.     In the padded cell or which cell you  
10    talking about?

11          Q.     The padded cell.

12          A.     Yes, sir.

13          Q.     Okay. Had you ever been in that cell  
14    before?

15          A.     No, sir.

16          Q.     That was the first time you had been put  
17    in there?

18          A.     Yes, sir.

19          Q.     Did you know that there was a surveillance  
20    camera in there?

21          A.     Yes.

22          Q.     And you were aware that that camera  
23    recorded what you did inside that cell?

24          A.     Yes, sir.

25          Q.     Once you were in the seg cell you started

1       trying to kick the door; right?

2           A.     Yes, sir.

3           Q.     And you did that for hours at a time?

4           A.     No, it wasn't no hours.

5           Q.     But it was for more -- it was on more than  
6 one occasion? Would you agree with that?

7           A.     Yeah. Yes, sir.

8           Q.     Would you agree with me that you clogged  
9 the toilet in that cell?

10          A.     Yes, sir.

11          Q.     And it flooded the cell?

12          A.     Yes, sir.

13          Q.     Why did you do that?

14          A.     Because I was mad.

15          Q.     Did you feel like you were being treated  
16 unfairly by anybody at the jail?

17          A.     Yeah.

18          Q.     Why did you feel like you were being  
19 treated unfairly at the jail?

20          A.     Because I was.

21          Q.     How were you being treated unfairly at the  
22 jail when you first got booked in?

23          A.     Because they threw me in the padded cell  
24 for no reason.

25          Q.     Okay. After you flooded the cell you

1       tried to push the water out into the hallway; right?

2           A.       Yeah.

3           Q.       And you made threatening gestures towards  
4       the camera in your cell; right?

5           A.       I don't remember all that.

6           Q.       Do you remember making a throat-slashing  
7       gesture for the camera?

8           A.       No.

9           Q.       Do you remember flipping off the camera?

10          A.       Probably. I don't know. It's been so  
11       long ago. I don't see why that got anything to do  
12       with him putting the chain around my neck, though, --

13          Q.       On January 28th, 2022, --

14          A.       -- no matter what I did.

15          Q.       -- the second day that you were in the  
16       Appling County Jail, you split a mattress in half;  
17       right?

18          A.       I did what?

19          Q.       You split a mattress or a bed or a pad up?

20          A.       I don't know. I can't remember.

21          Q.       Do you have any reason to think that you  
22       didn't?

23          A.       No.

24          Q.       If there's video footage of you doing it,  
25       would you have any reason to think that video footage

1 is not accurate?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Do you remember being placed in the  
4 restraint chair for ripping the mattress?

5 A. I remember being placed in the chair.

6 Q. Okay. So do you remember --

7 A. I can't remember what they put me in the  
8 chair for.

9 Q. So you remember being placed in the chair?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Was that on the second day you were in the  
12 jail? Was that the first time you were put in the  
13 restraint chair?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Okay. And do you know how long you were  
16 in the restraint chair for?

17 A. Probably over two hours.

18 Q. Okay. I'm going to show you Rentz 240,  
19 which we're going to mark as Exhibit 4 for the  
20 record. That means I've got to change flash drives,  
21 though.

22 (Exhibit 4 was marked for identification.)

23 Q. (By Mr. Tuten) And I'm going to represent  
24 to you, Mr. Harris, that what Rentz 240 is is 24  
25 hours' worth of surveillance footage from the cell

1 surveillance camera in your cell?

2 A. I can't remember. I can't remember.

3 Q. Were you put back in the restraint chair  
4 after that?

5 A. I believe so.

6 Q. That afternoon you ripped up the mattress  
7 in your cell again; right?

8 A. I can't remember.

9 Q. But if there's surveillance footage  
10 showing that you did, you have no reason to dispute  
11 that?

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. Do you remember ripping apart your  
14 jumpsuit and being put in a suicide smock?

15 A. No, sir.

16 Q. Okay. But you have no reason to dispute  
17 that that happened if there's surveillance footage  
18 depicting it?

19 A. No.

20 Q. And you would not ever suggest that the  
21 person in these videos is not you; correct?

22 A. No. That's me.

23 Q. That's you?

24 A. Yeah, that's me.

25 Q. Okay. So after you were put into the

1 restraint chair for the second time, do you know  
2 approximately how long you were in there for?

3 A. Not really.

4 Q. Okay. I'm going to show you Rentz 209,  
5 starting at 4:02 p.m. on January 29th, 2022. And  
6 we'll mark that for the record as Exhibit 6.

7 (Exhibit 6 was marked for identification.)

8 Q. (By Mr. Tuten) I'm going to start  
9 playing.

10 (Playing video.)

11 Do you know who that jailer holding the  
12 shock shield is?

13 A. I can't see him. I believe it was Rentz,  
14 though.

15 Q. You believe that this is Rentz?

16 A. I know he had at one time. I don't know  
17 -- I don't know if that was him or not. Oh, no.  
18 That ain't Rentz.

19 Q. That's not Rentz?

20 A. I don't think so. I can't hardly tell,  
21 really. I don't think that's him, though.

22 Q. Okay. Do you know if it's the same jailer  
23 that was putting you in the restraint chair the day  
24 before when you pushed your leg out at him?

25 A. I don't know. I can't really remember,



1 man.

2 Q. Okay. And do you have any reason to  
3 believe that this video does not accurately depict  
4 what happened?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Okay. We're going to go back to Exhibit  
7 5, Rentz 211, and we're going to start at 4:23:40  
8 p.m.  
9 on January 29th, 2022.

10 MR. McCULLOUGH: What time.

11 MR. TUTEN: 4:23:40. Well, yes, 4:23:40.

12 MR. McCULLOUGH: P.M.

13 MR. TUTEN: P.M.

14 MR. McCULLOUGH: Rentz 211.

15 MR. TUTEN: Um-hum (affirmative). Rentz  
16 211.

17 Q. (By Mr. Tuten) I'm going to press "Play."  
18 (Playing video.)

19 That's the second time that you smeared  
20 feces on the surveillance camera in the cell; right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you have no reason to believe that  
23 that is not you in the video?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Do you have any explanation for why you

1 did it a second time?

2 A. No.

3 Q. All right. This is still on Rentz 211.  
4 I'm going to drum forward to 4:40:30 p.m.

5 (Playing video.)

6 Is this a fair and accurate representation  
7 of what happened --

8 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

9 Q. -- in that cell?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Are you able to better identify who the  
12 jailer holding the shock shield is now?

13 A. (Shakes head negatively.)

14 Q. Could you agree that it is not Mr. Rentz?

15 A. I couldn't hardly see. Can you rewind it  
16 back?

17 Q. Sure.

18 (Playing video.)

19 A. I can't see. He's got on a mask.

20 Q. So you can't say one way or the other?

21 A. No, I can't say who that is. He got a  
22 mask on.

23 Q. Do you have any reason to believe that  
24 it's a different jailer than was holding the shock  
25 shield at 4:02 p.m.?

1           A.     I don't know. I couldn't say.

2           Q.     Okay.

3           A.     I can hardly see the video.

4           Q.     So I just want you to assume with me  
5     that it's the same jailer that was holding the shock  
6     shield then as holding the shock shield in the  
7     hallway and who you moved your leg out against when  
8     they were putting you in the restraint chair the day  
9     before. The same guy all three times. That's the  
10    third time in two days that you had some kind of  
11    physical encounter with that jailer; right?

12          A.     Yeah.

13          Q.     But not any of the other jailers?

14          A.     Unh-unh (negative). I don't think so.

15          Q.     Just that one guy?

16          A.     I guess so.

17          Q.     Do you have any idea why that one jailer  
18    you were having issues with?

19          A.     No, I don't.

20          Q.     Did you have any issue with him that was  
21    causing you to act aggressive towards him?

22          A.     No.

23                 MR. TUTEN: Okay. Why don't we take a  
24    five-minute break and we can finish up.

25                 (Off record from 11:43 a.m. to 11:47 a.m.)

1 MR. TUTEN: We can go back on the record.

2 Q. (By Mr. Tuten) All right. So I think  
3 where we left off is around 4:40 you had this  
4 incident with the jailers where you had sprayed  
5 cleaning supplies at them; right?

6 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

7 Q. And at that point they decided to put you  
8 back in the restraint chair again. Is that --

9 A. I think so.

10 Q. Is that your recollection?

11 A. Yes, sir, I think so.

12 Q. Okay. So they put you in the restraint  
13 chair. And this is the third time you had been in  
14 the restraint chair; right?

15 A. I -- I'm not sure. I think so.

16 Q. Okay. Do you remember being in it more  
17 than three times?

18 A. I don't think so.

19 Q. Okay. So when you were placed in the  
20 restraint chair on this instance you managed to pull  
21 your hands out of the straps for your hands; right?

22 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

23 Q. And you would agree with me that Mr. Rentz  
24 and several of the other jailers went back into your  
25 cell, put your hands into the straps, and then left;

1 right?

2 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

3 Q. Okay. I'm going to show you Rentz 49,  
4 which is from the same camera. This is an easier to  
5 watch video.

6 We're going to mark this as Exhibit 7, for  
7 the record, and I'm going to start this --

8 MR. McCULLOUGH: Rentz what?

9 MR. TUTEN: Rentz 49.

10 MR. McCULLOUGH: 49.

11 MR. TUTEN: 49.

12 (Exhibit 7 was marked for identification.)

13 Q. (By Mr. Tuten) I'm going to start this at  
14 the 40-second mark, which I will represent to you is  
15 just after Mr. Rentz and the other jailers have left  
16 your cell, having secured your hands to the restraint  
17 chair.

18 (Playing video.)

19 Is Exhibit 7 a true and accurate depiction  
20 of what occurred in your cell at the Appling County  
21 Jail on January 29th, 2022?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And does Exhibit 7 depict the events that  
24 you're complaining of in this lawsuit?

25 A. Yes.

1           Q.     Is there any other event that you're  
2     complaining of in this lawsuit that is not depicted  
3     in Exhibit 7?

4           A.     No, sir.

5           Q.     You contend that Mr. Rentz said something  
6     to you while this was going on; right?

7           A.     Yes, sir.

8           Q.     What comment did Mr. Rentz make that you  
9     are complaining of in this lawsuit?

10          A.     He said he was going to send me back in  
11     the field with the other boys, and that that was his  
12     jail, and I think that's it.

13          Q.     Where during Exhibit 7 do you contend that  
14     Mr. Rentz made that comment to you?

15          A.     When he bent down in front of me.

16          Q.     Okay. So at the three-minute and  
17     33-second mark?

18          A.     Um-hum (affirmative).

19          Q.     That's when you contend that Mr. Rentz  
20     made that comment to you?

21          A.     Um-hum (affirmative).

22          Q.     Would you agree with me Mr. Rentz is  
23     wearing a different jacket and a different hat than  
24     the other jailers in the room?

25          A.     Yes, sir.

1 Q. So knowing that, would you agree with me  
2 that Mr. Rentz was not the officer holding the shock  
3 shield in the previous clips we've watched?

4 A. I mean, he could have changed hats, but,  
5 yeah, I guess so.

6 Q. Okay. Is it possible that you misheard  
7 the comment Mr. Rentz made to you?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Is it possible that someone else made the  
10 comment?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Do you contend that Mr. Rentz made any  
13 other offensive comments to you?

14 A. No. That was it.

15 Q. During the 20 or so years that you had  
16 spent time in the Appling County Jail you had run  
17 across Mr. Rentz before; right?

18 A. I think so.

19 Q. Had he ever made a comment like that to  
20 you before?

21 A. No. That's why I don't know why he did  
22 that. He -- I ain't never had no problem with him.

23 Q. You never had any problems with him?

24 A. No. Not until then.

25 Q. Would you say you had an okay relationship

1 with him?

2 A. We didn't have no relationship because I  
3 didn't know him like that.

4 Q. Okay. But you didn't have any problems  
5 with him?

6 A. No.

7 Q. So what do you think would make Mr. Rentz  
8 make a comment like that?

9 A. I have no idea. Because I'm black.

10 Q. Besides the events that gave rise to this  
11 lawsuit, do you have any quarrel with Mr. Rentz?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Have you ever seen Mr. Rentz treat another  
14 black prisoner differently than a white prisoner?

15 A. No. Not until that day.

16 Q. So your experience is the only experience  
17 you have to base that off of?

18 A. I guess so.

19 Q. Do you know how Mr. Rentz treats other  
20 prisoners?

21 A. I don't.

22 Q. So you can't say one way or the other if  
23 he treats people differently based on their race?

24 A. I can't.

25 Q. You did not suffer any physical injuries



1 as a result of this incident, did you?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. You didn't seek any --

4 A. I couldn't breathe. I couldn't breathe.

5 Q. But you didn't seek any medical treatment?

6 A. They didn't give me any.

7 Q. Did you ask for any?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. Did you have any kind of soreness in your  
10 neck?

11 A. A little bit.

12 Q. But that went away on its own?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. In less than a day?

15 A. A few days.

16 Q. Okay. Did you ever complain about being  
17 in pain to anyone at the jail?

18 A. I had done got out by then.

19 Q. Okay. When did you get out after this  
20 happened?

21 A. I think they -- I think I went to Georgia  
22 Regional. That's where I went.

23 Q. Okay. After you got out of Appling County  
24 Jail?

25 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

1 Q. Did you get discharged this same day?

2 A. I don't think so. I can't remember. I  
3 don't think so, though, no.

4 Q. But shortly thereafter?

5 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

6 Q. Given the video that we've watched, could  
7 you agree with me that Mr. Rentz did not use a shock  
8 shield on you?

9 A. Use a shock shield?

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Yes, he did or, no, he did not?

13 A. He didn't.

14 Q. He did not use a shock shield?

15 A. (Shakes head negatively.)

16 Q. Okay. And he certainly didn't use a shock  
17 shield on you that day?

18 A. (Shakes head negatively.)

19 Q. Okay. Make sure you give a yes or no  
20 answer, Mr. Harris, so that the court reporter can  
21 pick it up, but you're doing a good job with it.

22 I am going to show you what we will mark  
23 as Exhibit 8, if I can find my pen.

24 Can I borrow your pen?

25 MR. McCULLOUGH: Go right ahead.

1 MR. TUTEN: I'll give you that back.

2 (Exhibit 8 was marked for identification.)

3 Q. (By Mr. Tuten) This is the Complaint that  
4 you filed in the Southern District of Georgia, and I  
5 specifically want you to look at Page 3, Paragraph 10  
6 and 11.

7 A. (Reviewing document.)

8 Q. Have you read this document before,  
9 Mr. Harris?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. Okay. Paragraph 10 reads: After lunch on  
12 January 29th, Defendant Corrections Officer William  
13 Rentz and Defendant Corrections Officers John Does  
14 entered plaintiff's cell with a shock shield - an  
15 electrified shield designed to deliver an electric  
16 shock to those who come into contact with it.

17 Paragraph 11: In using the shock shield,  
18 Defendants Rentz and John Does delivered several  
19 shocks to plaintiff.

20 Could you agree with me now, having been  
21 through this deposition and having to watch this  
22 footage, that Mr. Rentz did not use a shock shield on  
23 you?

24 A. I guess not.

25 Q. So what you've alleged in Paragraph 10 and

1 11, certainly in Paragraph 11, regarding Mr. Rentz is  
2 not true; correct?

3 A. I guess not.

4 Q. Did you have any other interactions with  
5 Mr. Rentz on January 29th after what happened in the  
6 cell with you?

7 A. I think -- I think he came back in later  
8 and told me that -- after he told me, he said he was  
9 just playing or something like that.

10 Q. Okay. He came back and told you he was  
11 just playing?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Okay. Do you know about how long after  
14 this happened that was?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Was that the only --

17 A. It might have been right after. I don't  
18 know.

19 Q. Maybe right after?

20 A. Maybe. I don't know. I can't remember.

21 Q. Okay. Is that the only other interaction  
22 you had with Mr. Rentz that day?

23 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

24 Q. Did you have any other interactions with  
25 -- strike that.

1                   Did you have any other interactions with  
2 Mr. Rentz at all after the events that were depicted  
3 in Exhibit 7 beyond the conversation you just told me  
4 about?

5           A.     No, sir.

6           Q.     So you've not talked to him at all since  
7 this happened beyond that one conversation?

8           A.     No.

9           Q.     Did you tell anyone at the jail about what  
10 you contend happened between yourself and Mr. Rentz?

11          A.     I told Adam Bell.

12          Q.     Did you verbally tell Adam Bell?

13          A.     Yeah.

14          Q.     And was that in addition to writing a  
15 grievance?

16          A.     That's -- I wrote a grievance. That's how  
17 I told him.

18          Q.     Okay. So you wrote the grievance? You  
19 didn't tell him in person? You didn't have a  
20 conversation with him?

21          A.     Yeah, I had a conversation with him.

22          Q.     Okay. Well, help me understand that then.  
23 Because you have a written grievance; right?

24          A.     Yeah. I -- I talked to him, too.

25          Q.     Okay. So you talked to him and filed a

1 written grievance?

2 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

3 Q. Did you talk to anybody else in the jail  
4 about this?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Any other correctional officers?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Or any of the other inmates?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Did you talk to anybody on the outside  
11 about it?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay. The grievance that you filed, did  
14 you ever get a response from the jail to that  
15 grievance?

16 A. I think the GBIs came. After they found  
17 out I had done got choked in jail, they came.

18 Q. The GBI came, you think?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. But the jail itself -- so Adam Bell or  
21 anybody else never gave you a written response to  
22 that grievance?

23 A. Adam came back and talked to me, I think.

24 Q. Adam came and talked to you about it?

25 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

1 Q. But he never gave you a piece of paper  
2 saying a response to it?

3 A. Unh-unh (negative). They didn't give me  
4 no paper or nothing like that.

5 Q. Okay. So you said you got out and went to  
6 Georgia Regional; right?

7 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

8 Q. How -- how did that come about?

9 A. I don't know. They -- after I got  
10 released they sent me straight there. That's all I  
11 know.

12 Q. "They," being the Sheriff's Office?

13 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

14 Q. They arranged for you to go to Georgia  
15 Regional?

16 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

17 Q. And that's in Savannah; right?

18 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

19 Q. How long were you at Georgia Regional for?

20 A. I done been three different times. I  
21 can't remember.

22 Q. Okay. About how many times have you been  
23 to Georgia Regional?

24 A. Three.

25 Q. Three?

1 A. Well, ...

2 Q. Would it be unusual for you to go to  
3 Georgia Regional for such a short period of time?

4 A. No, sir.

5 Q. No? You've been in there before for a day  
6 or two?

7 A. Yes. The last time I stayed one day.

8 Q. One day?

9 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

10 Q. When was the last time you went?

11 A. I can't remember, but I was -- I was  
12 incarcerated in Jeff Davis, though.

13 Q. So it was after that 2023 conviction?

14 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

15 Q. Okay. That you were sent out to Georgia  
16 Regional?

17 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

18 Q. And what kind of treatment are you  
19 receiving at Georgia Regional?

20 A. For bipolar schizophrenic.

21 Q. Have you been diagnosed as being bipolar  
22 or schizophrenic?

23 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

24 Q. Who diagnosed you with that?

25 A. Georgia Regional.



1 Q. Okay. Was that diagnosis made before  
2 January 29th, 2022?

3 A. I -- I can't remember. I think so.

4 Q. Georgia Regional is the one made the  
5 diagnosis?

6 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

7 Q. Okay. When you went to Georgia Regional  
8 after this happened, was that the first time you had  
9 been there?

10 A. I want to say it was.

11 Q. So that was the first time you --

12 A. No, the second time.

13 Q. That was the second time?

14 A. The second time.

15 Q. Okay. So you had been to Georgia Regional  
16 before?

17 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

18 Q. And were treated for the same thing,  
19 bipolar disorder and schizophrenia?

20 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

21 Q. Do you know the name of the doctor or  
22 the psychiatrist that you worked with at Georgia  
23 Regional?

24 A. No, sir.

25 Q. Are you on any medication or were you

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. And how does that manifest itself?

3 A. I couldn't tell you.

4 Q. If you're having a schizophrenic episode  
5 or a bipolar episode, do you have recollection of  
6 what you were doing when that's going on?

7 A. Sometimes.

8 Q. Sometimes?

9 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

10 Q. When you got put back -- okay. Scratch --  
11 strike that.

12 You get out of Appling County Jail on the  
13 29th, you go to Georgia Regional, you get arrested  
14 again on the 4th, you go back to the Appling County  
15 Jail?

16 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

17 Q. And about how long were you there that  
18 time?

19 A. Well, they -- they booked me and they sent  
20 me to Hazlehurst. Jeff Davis Jail.

21 Q. That's when they sent you to Jeff Davis?

22 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

23 Q. Okay. And how long did you stay in Jeff  
24 Davis for?

25 A. I can't remember. I want to say about two

1 weeks.

2 Q. About two weeks, you said?

3 A. That's what I want to say.

4 Q. Okay. And then you got out and then you  
5 were arrested again in March of that year for  
6 disorderly conduct in Baxley again?

7 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

8 Q. So was that the last -- so when you got  
9 arrested on March 11th, 2022, did they take you to  
10 the Appling County Jail then?

11 A. Yes, but they took me to Hazlehurst.

12 Q. They took you to Hazlehurst again?

13 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

14 Q. Do you know why they were taking you to  
15 Hazlehurst instead of to the Appling County Jail?

16 A. I think because of what happened between  
17 me and Rentz.

18 Q. So do you know about how long you were in  
19 Jeff Davis Jail after that March 11th arrest?

20 A. Unh-unh (negative). I don't know how long  
21 I was locked up.

22 Q. Probably about the same amount of time?

23 A. Probably.

24 Q. A week or two?

25 A. Probably.

1 Q. Okay. And that's the last time you were  
2 arrested until March 2023?

3 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

4 Q. So you were on the street, it's fair to  
5 say, probably between the end of March of '22 and  
6 March of '23?

7 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

8 Q. Were you taking your prescription  
9 medications you were supposed to be taking --

10 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

11 Q. -- at that point?

12 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

13 Q. And did the prescription medication help  
14 with your bipolar and schizophrenic episodes?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. When you appeared -- when you had your  
17 first appearance for the January 27th arrest, did you  
18 say anything about what you alleged happened with you  
19 and Mr. Rentz to the judge?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Okay. Were you contacted by the GBI as  
22 part of their investigation?

23 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

24 Q. You were?

25 A. Yeah. They seen me before I got out of

1 jail.

2 Q. So they came and talked with you while you  
3 were still in there?

4 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

5 Q. Okay. Are there any other mental  
6 hospitals or places like Georgia Regional you've been  
7 treated at?

8 A. Nowhere but here.

9 Q. Just here?

10 A. ITF.

11 Q. Go ahead.

12 A. At this ITF.

13 Q. So here you're being -- are you being  
14 treated for the same thing?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Have you ever been treated for drug abuse?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. Or alcohol abuse?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. Okay. So it's just the mental --

21 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

22 Q. -- illness diagnosis that is your  
23 treatment plan here?

24 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

25 Q. And what is your treatment plan here?

1           A.     They just give me medicine for it and I go  
2 to group -- take classes.

3           Q.     Okay. Did you ever talk with your family  
4 about what happened between you and Mr. Rentz?

5           A.     Yeah.

6           Q.     Did you talk with anyone else outside of  
7 your family?

8           A.     No, sir.

9           MR. TUTEN: Let's take one more break and  
10 then we can wrap up.

11           (Recess from 12:10 p.m. to 12:14 p.m.)

12           MR. TUTEN: We can go back on the record.

13           Q.     (By Mr. Tuten) Mr. Harris, you testified  
14 earlier that you believed that Mr. Rentz made that  
15 comment to you or treated you differently because you  
16 were black; right?

17           A.     Um-hum (affirmative).

18           Q.     Can you give me any other examples of a  
19 time where Mr. Rentz treated you differently because  
20 you were black beyond what you've complained of in  
21 this lawsuit?

22           A.     That was the first time I ever dealt with  
23 him.

24           Q.     That's the first time you ever dealt with  
25 him?

1 with the other boys. When I told him I was going to  
2 tell Mr. Adam Bell he said that he didn't care  
3 because this was his jail. I will take legal action,  
4 I promise. The jail will be sued."

5 Q. Okay. And this statement is -- was true  
6 when you wrote it; correct?

7 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

8 Q. And you wouldn't lie on an official  
9 statement, would you?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Okay. And you filled this grievance out  
12 shortly after the incident took place; correct?

13 A. Yes, ma'am.

14 Q. And you previously stated that you gave it  
15 to Officer Adam Bell?

16 A. Yes, ma'am.

17 Q. Okay. Is that normal procedure of how you  
18 would file a grievance?

19 A. Yes, ma'am.

20 Q. Okay. And I've just got one additional  
21 question. At what time after the incident were you  
22 released from Appling County Jail?

23 A. I can't really remember. I can't  
24 remember.

25 Q. Okay. Could you say it was a few days or

1 was it a few weeks?

2 A. A few days.

3 MS. CAREY: Okay. I have no further  
4 questions.

5 MR. TUTEN: I've got maybe three  
6 follow-ups.

7 MS. CAREY: Okay.

8 EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. TUTEN:

10 Q. Still looking at Plaintiff's Exhibit 1,  
11 you signed it at the bottom. This is your signature,  
12 right, where it says "Inmate's Signature"?

13 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

14 Q. And the date says: Question mark,  
15 question mark, question mark; right?

16 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

17 Q. Do you know what day you actually filed  
18 this grievance?

19 A. I don't.

20 Q. You say in your grievance that, "When I  
21 told him I was going to tell Adam Bell he said that  
22 he didn't care because this was his jail."

23 Is it your -- so you testified previously  
24 that Mr. Rentz made this comment to you when he was  
25 leaning over. The one about putting you back in the



1 cotton fields; right?

2 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

3 Q. Did this exchange about you were going to  
4 tell Adam Bell and he said he didn't care because he  
5 runs this jail, did that happen at the exact same  
6 time?

7 A. I think so.

8 Q. Okay. So that happened while he was  
9 leaned over with you? That entire exchange?

10 A. Um-hum (affirmative).

11 MR. TUTEN: Okay. I have no further  
12 questions.

13 MS. CAREY: I do not.

14 Let me have one. One additional question.

15 EXAMINATION

16 BY MS. CAREY:

17 Q. Do you keep up with time in jail, as far  
18 as dates?

19 A. Not -- not really.

20 Q. Okay. So you would not have known --  
21 well, let me scratch that. Strike that.

22 How long did you stay in the cell after  
23 the choking? The isolated cell.

24 A. I want to say until I left. Was released.

25 MS. CAREY: Okay. I think that's -- I

## 1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

2  
3 STATE OF GEORGIA:

4 COUNTY OF GLYNN:

5  
6 I hereby certify that the foregoing  
7 transcript was reported as stated in the caption and  
8 the questions and answers thereto were reduced to  
9 writing by me; that the foregoing Pages 1 through 82  
represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of  
the evidence given on Friday, June 28, 2024, by the  
witness, TREMAR HARRIS, who was first duly sworn by  
me.10 I certify that I am not disqualified for a  
11 relationship of interest under O.C.G.A. 9-11-28(c);  
12 I am a Georgia Certified Court Reporter here as an  
13 employee of Gilbert & Jones, Inc., who was contacted  
14 by Oliver Maner, LLP, to provide court reporting  
15 services for the proceedings; I will not be taking  
16 these proceedings under any contract that is  
17 prohibited by O.C.G.A. 15-14-37(a) and (b) or Article  
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by the attached disclosure form I confirm that  
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or Article 7.C. of the Rules and Regulations of the  
Board.

18 This 2nd day of July, 2024.

19  
20 *Janell A. Buchanan*21  
22 Janell A. Buchanan, Certified  
23 Court Reporter B-1914  
24  
25